

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE UTILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
GARDNER, KANSAS  
Page No. 2021-01  
January 7, 2021**

The Utilities Advisory Commission of Gardner, Kansas, met in Regular Session on January 7, 2021, at City Hall. Present were Vice-Chairperson Kristina Harrison, Commissioner Barbara Coleman, Commissioner Jake Wells, Utilities Department Director Gonzalo Garcia and Administrative Assistant Erin Groh. Chairman Gary Williams and Commissioner Bryce Augustine were not in attendance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Kristy Harrison.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Standing approval of the minutes as written for the December 3, 2020, meeting of the Utility Advisory Commission.**

**PRESENTATION**

1. **Consider election of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson of the Commission.**

Commissioners selected Kristina Harrison as Chairperson and Jake Wells as Vice-Chairperson of the Utility Advisory Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to elect Vice-Chairperson Harrison to Chairperson and Commissioner Wells to Vice-Chairperson.

Motion carried 3-0 Aye (2 absent)

2. **Consider a recommendation to the City Council to award a contract for the Belt Press Replacement at Kill Creek WRRF, Project No. WW1901.**

Scott Millholland presented the staff report. The Kill Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility has a belt press that processes solids within sludge that is dewatered before it is hauled off for disposal. The current belt press used for dewatering the bio-sludge was purchased as a used refurbished piece of equipment and currently has approximately 30 years of use, which is well past the useful life for this type of equipment. Staff recommendation is to replace the belt press with a screw type press which will allow for greater dewatering capabilities of the bio-sludge with less maintenance and man-hours to operate this process at the plant. Utilities staff performed a review of all proposals including the bid costs, qualifications and equipment specifications as well as reference checks.

Motion by Vice-Chairperson Wells, seconded by Commissioner Coleman to forward a recommendation to City Council to award a contract to Crossland Heavy Contractors for the Belt Press replacement at Kill Creek WRRF, Project No. WW1901 in an amount not to exceed \$442,000.00.

Motion carried 3-0 Aye (2 absent)

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Director Garcia gave a presentation on the current developments of the Hillsdale Water Treatment Plant expansion project.

### **1. Project Updates- Hillsdale Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project, WA2002**

Director Garcia gave a presentation on the current developments of the Hillsdale Water Treatment Plant expansion project, WA2002. The 3.0 MGD expansion will allow for a total capacity of 7.0 MGD by early summer 2021. The joint venture of Burns and McDonnell and CAS Constructors were hired to do the expansion. A new lagoon was put in, a transfer pump station constructed, as well as a carbon contact basin and filter building (which will remove sediments via various filters), and a new raw water line installed. A new chlorine building was also constructed and will provide chlorine to all areas now and the old chlorine building will be decommissioned. Garcia said that one of the major improvements is that the new pond on the south side of the plant will flow due to gravity and pumps will not be needed to pump the water over to the treatment plant. Also, with the new lagoon pond, it will allow for maintenance on the other existing pond and vice versa if needed. The clearwell will allow for maintenance on the contact basin if necessary. Garcia went over some of the latest changes which include the following: In September 2020 the walls and roof were added to the clearwell. The Contact Clarifier had the structure installed that will help collect the clarified water which will be sent to be filtered. In November 2020, various electrical equipment arrived, like the motor control centers, the air conditioners and heaters. The new 1.2 megawatt generator was installed in December and will replace two of the old generators that are currently at Hillsdale. The approval from the Corps of Engineers was given for the new 24" raw water Line to be installed and the install is now almost 90% complete. The new raw water line is for a backup in case we need to do maintenance on the old raw water line. Also, for future expansions the treatment plant will need to transfer larger amounts of water in the future from Hillsdale Lake to the plant. The expansion is now 97% complete. Some of the last items to be added are some equipment which are the high service pump and the new raw water pumps, which will be added here soon. Substantial completion should be done by April-May 2021. A start-up process will take place about March or April.

### **2. 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Electric Outage Report**

Director Garcia presented the Electric Outage Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2020. Electric staff responded to 11 outages affecting 128 customers: 5 caused by equipment failures, 1 caused by animals, and 5 caused by other reasons. The average workday response time was 18 minutes and the average workday length of outage was 1 hour and 30 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 43 minutes and the average after-hours length of outage was 1 hour and 36 minutes. The overall average response time was 31 minutes and the overall average length of outage was 1 hour and 21 minutes.

### **3. 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Wastewater Collection Repairs Report.**

Director Garcia presented the Wastewater Collection Repairs Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2020. Line maintenance staff completed 6 sanitary sewer line repairs affecting 6 customers: 1 caused by grease, 4 due to residents' issues, and 1 due to other causes. The average workday response time was 4 hours and 28 minutes and the average workday repair time was 6 hours. The average after-hours response time was 25 minutes and the average after-hours repair time was 40 minutes. The overall average response time was 3 hours and 48 minutes and the overall average repair time was 5 hours and 7 minutes.

**4. 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Water Distribution Repairs Report.**

Director Garcia presented the Water Distribution Repairs Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2020. Line maintenance staff completed 47 water distribution service repairs affecting 147 customers: 11 due to line failures, 2 due to valve failures, 8 due to damages by others, 24 due to residents' issues and 2 due to the other issues. The average workday response time was 8 hours and 52 minutes and the average workday repair time was 8 hours and 7 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 19 minutes and the average after-hours repair time was 2 hours and 9 minutes. The overall average response time was 5 hours and 36 minutes and the overall average repair time was 5 hours and 50 minutes.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Director Garcia discussed that a resident from the Megan Valley subdivision contacted him regarding the possibility of getting streetlights in three cul-de-sacs there since the contractors did not have them installed. Garcia stated that he feels that it would be best if the city paid for the labor of installing the lights but that the home owner's association of Megan Valley should cover the cost of the materials. Harrison asked if lighting planning is reviewed and looked at with the developer and are there changes that the city should make [to the planning requirements] to try and drive more lighting in the future. Garcia stated that right now the City does not have a streetlight technical specifications, and that is part of the deficiencies of inadequate lighting in certain subdivisions. There are currently no requirements for how many streetlights you need for say, 100 ft. Chairperson Harrison, Vice-Chairperson Wells and Commissioner Coleman all agreed with Garcia's recommendation that any cost regarding the materials of the streetlights should be incurred by the homeowner's association.

Commissioner Coleman asked for an update on the rebate project. Garcia stated that he is still working on compiling some data for it, and there were three items that he was going to research: a rebate for a smart thermostat, a rebate for a water irrigation controller, and the LED. Garcia stated that he needed more time to research the LED rebates because there are so many types of bulbs and he said he needs a better handle on how to handle that type of rebate. He wants to make it a no-brainer so that it's very easy to determine what the rebate would be. Garcia said he hopes to have a proposal by next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Vice-Chairperson Wells, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Motion carried 3-0 Aye (2 Absent)

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Erin Groh

Utilities Department Administrative Assistant